

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
/088 W

-----042072 301629Z /53

O R 301452Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2297  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IS, EG  
SUBJ: PRESS REFLECTS HOPES RAISED BY WEIZMAN TRIP

1. SUMMARY: THE WEIZMAN TRIP TO CAIRO HAS REVIVED  
HOPES THAT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A DECLARATION OF

PRINCIPLES AND PEACE WITH EGYPT CAN BE REVIVED. IN THE  
PRESS' VIEW WEIZMAN WILL NOT CARRY SPECIFIC NEW PRO-  
POSALS AND WILL NOT BE EMPOWERED TO TAKE SUBSTANTIVE  
DECISIONS. HE WILL, HOWEVER, CLARIFY ISRAELI POSITIONS  
AND PRESS FOR A RECONVENING OF ONE OR BOTH COMMITTEES.  
EGYPT'S AGREEMENT TO SEE WEIZMAN IS VIEWED AS SURPRISING AND  
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ENCOURAGING ESPECIALLY AS IT WAS BELIEVED TO BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT  
U.S. MEDIATION. THERE ARE HINTS OF GRATIFICATIN THAT THE U.S.  
IS FROZEN OUT OF THIS ACT. END SUMMARY

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EZER WEIZMAN'S TRIP TO CAIRO HAS BEEN THE  
OCCASION FOR A RESURGENCE OF HOPE THAT THE PEACE PROCESS WILL  
STILL BEAR FRUIT. THE FACT THAT WEIZMAN'S MISSION IS TAKING

PLACE IN THE AFTERMATH OF BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY SETBACKS  
(THE BEGIN-CARTER TALKS AND IDF OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON)  
IS NOTED AS GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM.

3. THE WEIZMAN VISIT IS VIEWED AS AN EFFORT TO REVIVE DIRECT  
NEGOTIATIONS, EITHER IN THE CONTEXT OF BOTH THE POLITICAL  
AND MILITARY COMMITTEES OF JUST THE LATTER. WEIZMAN WILL NEED  
TO CLARIFY THE ISRAELI POSITION, AFTER TWO MONTHS OF NEGOT-  
IATIONS STANDSTILL, AND ALTHOUGH HE WILL NOT CARRY ANY NEW  
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS HE WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT  
INCLUDING A SEPARATE PEACE (AL HAMISHMAR). WEIZMAN IS NOT EM-  
POWERED TO TAKE ANY DECISIONS BUT HE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THE  
GO-AHEAD FOR RECONVENING OF THE COMMITTEE(S), POSSIBLY AS EARLY  
AS THIS WEEK (ZIMUKI IN YEDIOT). THE INCLUSION OF ATTORNEY  
GENERAL BARAK IN WEIZMAN'S PARTY IS CAUSE FOR SOME OPTIMISM,  
INDICATING GOI CONFIDENCE THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON A  
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ARE AN IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITY.

4. THERE ARE VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THIS "SURPRISING"  
DEVELOPMENT. MAARIV EDITORIALIZES THAT IT IS AN INDICATION THAT  
SADAT FEELS STRONG ENOUGH, DESPITE EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC  
PRESSURE, TO CONTINUE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS "AN ENCOURAGING  
SIGN," SAYS MAARIV, THAT BOTH SIDES WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED  
FROM ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF PEACE DESPITE INTERMITTENT DIS-  
AGREEMENTS. DAVAR, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "GOOD TIDINGS, AND  
A GREAT CHALLENGE" IMPUTES GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FACT  
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THAT THE EGYPTIANS INITIATED THE VISIT, AND TO ITS TIMING,  
WHICH SUGGESTS THAT SADAT IS NOT TERRIBLY DISTRESSED BY THE  
BLOW INFLICTED ON THE PLO IN SOUTH LEBANON. ISRAEL, SAYS DAVAR,  
IS NOW REQUIRED TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT BUT MUST REALIZE  
THAT IN THE END AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT WILL DEPEND ON GOI  
FLEXIBILITY ON THE WEST BANK.

5. BOTH THE EGYPTIANS (GAMASY) AND THE ISRAELIS (WEIZMAN) ARE  
GIVEN CREDIT FOR CUTTING THROUGH THE CURRENT DEADLOCK, GETTING  
PAST THE AMERICANS AND FINALLY RENEWING DIRECT CONTACT. THE  
U.S. IS NOWHERE GIVEN CREDIT FOR ARRANGING OR PAVING THE WAY  
FOR THE TRIP. INDEED, BLITZER IN THE POST AND AL HAMISHMAR,  
REPORTS THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRIP TOOK WASHINGTON BY  
SURPRISE: "ONCE AGAIN EGYPT'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE A  
DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH ISRAEL HAS CONFOUNDED U.S. OFFICIALS...  
EARLIER IN THE WEEK U.S. OFFICIALS HAD BEEN HEARING REPORTS  
THAT EGYPT WANTED TO KEEP THE 'HEAT UP' AGAINST ISRAEL," AN  
ASSESSMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE RULED OUT A WEIZMAN TRIP. NOT ONLY  
WOULD THE U.S. HAVE NO PART IN FACILITATING WEIZMAN'S TRIP,  
BUT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT IF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
IS RECONVENED IT WILL BE WITHIN THE BILATERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE  
MILITARY COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO DHALIA SCHORY IN AL HAMISHMAR.

THE U.S., ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, HAS AGREED TO BE ABSENT  
FROM POLITICAL COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN NO  
COMMENT LINKING WEIZMAN'S RECENT CALL FOR A NATIONAL PEACE  
COALITION WITH THE CAIRO TRIP, ANOTHER HIGH PROFILE WEIZMAN  
VENTURE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PEACE PLANS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV04326  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS REFLECTS HOPES RAISED BY WEIZMAN TRIP  
**TAGS:** PINT, OVIP, PDEV, SOPN, IS, EG, (WEIZMAN, EZER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014